

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Corporal Richard P. Schoener.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Marine Corps Corporal Richard P. Schoener upon his death in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and the most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death of Corporal Schoener in ground combat operations in Laghman Province, a remote region of Afghanistan's border with Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener was a native of the small southwestern Louisiana town of Hayes and was a 2001 honors graduate of Bell High School where he was elected King of the Senior Prom and President of his class; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener loved his country deeply and was so moved after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, that he decided to enlist in the Marine Corps where he felt he could do the most to protect and serve the nation that had nurtured him on freedom and taught him the meaning of liberty; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener used his exceptional abilities as a leader which he had developed in high school and honed to razor sharpness in the Marines and which helped him greatly as he trained intensely in Hawaii for the fight he knew would come against the enemies of his country; and

1 WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener was indeed well prepared and knew he was ready
2 and "good to go" as a Marine Corps infantry rifleman when he received orders which would
3 deploy him and his unit to the strange, harsh, and unforgiving land of rugged, mountainous,
4 eastern Afghanistan where terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden and his followers were reported
5 to be operating from caves; and

6 WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener and his fellow Marines were given the mission on
7 Sunday, May 8, 2005, of checking reports of terrorist activities in the Alishang District, a
8 lawless, opium-producing area east of the capital, Kabul, and a known stronghold for
9 terrorists; and

10 WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener was 21 years old when he and his unit found and
11 engaged enemy forces in a fierce, five-hour battle in which the Marines bravely faced down
12 small arms fire and a storm of rocket-propelled grenades before the enemy broke into two
13 elements and attempted to disengage contact with the Marines by hiding in a nearby village
14 and a cave on a nearby ridge; and

15 WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener and the Marines then began employing United States
16 Air Force A-10 Warthog aircraft for close, tactical air-to-ground support in an effort to
17 destroy the enemy cave position; and

18 WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener and his squad of Marines were given the dangerous
19 task of entering the dark, bomb-battered cave, assessing the situation and clearing the enemy
20 refuge when surviving terrorists opened fire and in the following firefight Corporal Schoener
21 and a fellow Marine were mortally wounded; and

22 WHEREAS, Corporal Schoener will be forever remembered as a defender of the
23 freedom that this nation stands for and a bright and shining example of all the best that
24 America represents.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
26 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
27 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Marine Corps Corporal Richard P.
28 Schoener for his service, his sacrifice, and his uncommon valor in the face of a heavily-
29 armed and determined enemy.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 family of Corporal Schoener.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Richard P. Schoener.